From the Editor's Desk . . .

For God, Country and Man

by

Steven J. Yaros, Jr.

A collection of articles and editorials from the "Mike."
A publication for and by the
Parish of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Schererville, Indiana
by Editor Steven J. Yaros, Jr.
from June 1975 thru June of 1979.

IND
070.482
YARO

3 3113 02805 0047

CONTENTS

Our Catholic Heritage	Jun	20
Heritage Profile	Jul	14
Tragedy at the Crossroads	Nov	9
Peace and Brotherhood	Dec.	24
Catholic Press Month	Feb.	23
Catholic Heritage Council	Marc	5
The Challenge of Life	May	22
The Stranger Dad	June	16
Thank God for Americanism	July	22
Americanism in our Schools	Sept. 1976	Page 18
A Unique Spirit	Sept. 1976	Page 18
One Nation Under God	Nov. 1976	Page 3
Vatican II, Freedom And You	Dec. 1976	Page 4
An Open Letter	1976	Page 25
St. Michael Belongs To You	Jan. 1977	Page 14
Clarence Smith-Into Thy Hands O Lord	Feb. 1977	Page 10
Freedom of the Press	Feb. 1977	Page 3
The Change in Traditional Values	March 1977	Page 1
Easter Reflections	April 1977	Page 19
In Search of Freedom	June 1977	Page 8
Catholic Education-Christian Goals	Aug/Sept. 1977	Page 19
A Stop Sign for Johnny	Oct. 1977	Page 11
The Challenge and the Responsibility	Oct. 1977	Page 9
Freedom and the Will of God	Dec. 1977	Page 1
A Policeman's Prayer	Dec. 1977	Page 24
A Point of Beginning Again	Jan. 1978	Page 1
The Courage to Be an Individual	Jan. 1978	Page 15
On Christian Virtues	Feb. 1978	Page 3
The Cause of Human Dignity	March 1978	Page 13
Heritage Trail-Nichols Scherer	March 1978	Page 20
The Most Important Job in the World	April 1978	Page 6
The Respect for Life	April 1978	Page 19
The Mark of the Christian	June 1978	Page 24
Vandalism	July 1978	Page 8
Dear Youth of Lake County	Aug. 1978	Page 5
The Advent of Christmas	Nov. 1978	Page 15
Accountability	Nov. 1978	Page 21
The Renewal of Society	Feb. 1979	Page 23
April Easter Thoughts	April 1979	Page 16
To the Graduates	June 1979	Page 17
God's Healing Hand	June 1979	Page 2
The Warrior Spirit	No Date	Page 2
Pope Paul VI (1897-1978)	No Date	Page 4
Pope John Paul (1913-1978)	No Date	Page 11
The Apostle of Freedom	No Date	Page 7

The change in traditional values

Should we be in favor of change, or should we oppose it? Change itself is neither good nor bad, it can claim no real value. The important thing to remember is that change is always relative to what was before and what will be after.

Progress always entails change but it is disastrous to reason that change is necessary and therefore it is for the best. Too many of us have hypnotically adjusted to this modern world on the move.

We have overthrown traditional values and have replaced them with a new set of moral, social and political values often based on whim and self-benefit. Individualism has lost out to conformity. Integrity is in danger of being swept away as old fashion.

These changes did not occur overnight, they have been gradual but can be traced to there source.

These changes in thought and temper amount to a betrayal of our American traditions and are underlying our way of life.

Traditional values teach us the difference between right and wrong. We have evolved these absolute truths and values and it is our devotion to these that distinguish us as intellectual beings!

William Penn warned that "If you are not governed by God, you will be ruled by tyrants."

And someone by the name of de Tocqueville observed that "Religion in America takes no direct part in the government of society, but it must be regarded as the first of their political institutions."

Your Editor
STEVEN YAROS JR.

A point of beginning again

Its a new year and all of us are at a point of beginning again - what ever has happened in the past year is now behind - we have turned a corner.

So now we stand at the gate of January and on the one hand we review the past year and on the other hand we look forward with resolutions to reform and do better in the year that lies ahead.

What will we remember and what will we forget in this month of new beginnings and of old memories?

We need to have memories of the recent past and faith in the unknown future. In this time of summing up we must assess our gains and forget our losses. We should remember the past year in proper perspective. We should remember the good, forget the misery and learn from the mistakes and have faith in the adventures that lay ahead. Keep what is of value of the past and look ahead to the challenge and the promise that life holds for you in this new year of beginning again.

You are embarking on a path that is not always smooth but with the love of God you and yours can find joy, peace and satisfaction at this point of beginning again.

Your Editor
Steven Yaros Jr.

Freedom And The Will Of God

What is freedom for and what does it mean?

Freedom is empty if it means only freedom from restraint or authority.

Freedom of speech is empty unless we have something to say; Freedom to worship is empty if we have no God.

Freedom is nothing as an end in it self.

Our dream of liberity should not be freedom from restraint and autority but as children of God it should mean freedom to serve the will of God.

Men should be free to respond to the call of God to love and serve Him and seek the truth.

There is no liberty except in doing the will of God!

Your Editor
Steven Yaros Jr.

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

God's healing hand

God's healing hand is extended to the weak, the helpless and the sinful. Weary and sick, men hear Him and feel His presence and are given strength.

All men marvel at the healing power of His words and His faith but few really listen and follow His advice.

Every commandment of His begins and ends in love to help mankind struggle to prevent narrow and arrogant laws from taking away from human kind the dignity, respect and responsibility that man is seeking in life and in love.

Man has had many noble ideals before but with Christ he was set free to live in the spirit of love.

Now man can know a personal God through Christ in the gospel of freedom and love because of His noble sacrifice and His healing hand.

Your Editor,
STEVEN YAROS JR.

The Warrior Spirit

Applaud us when we run, console us when we fail, cheer us when we win, stand by us when we lose, but always teach us that in our concern for excellence, let us have the courage to apply a moral code of Christian concern for justice and fair play and in that spirit we shall always be winners in the game of life.

Editorial

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Freedom of expression contributes to the maintenance and development of a free society in many ways such as: 1. Freedom to publish news and opinion contributes to an enlightened citizenry in a democracy. It makes for free minds instead of slave minds. It encourages thought and controversy and is an important instrument of communication in a functioning democracy.

2. The right to report and comment freely serves as an essential check upon government which tends to assume more and more authority. 3. A free press combats the development of arbitrary power by the right to criticize freely the conduct of public men. Corruption in public office thrives in secrecy. Publicity is a most effective cauterizing agency. 4. A free press governed by a sense of equity, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "keeps the waters pure," and is the best defense against streams of calculated misinformation.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS

The Catholic point of view can be read because of Freedom of the Press and like any written word can exert a powerful influence over our lives, our minds and our souls.

We should use the Catholic Press to keep ourselves and our families as informed Catholics so that as Christians we can stand up and be counted as Christ bearers.

THE MIKE

As a substantial segment of the Catholic Press your Parish newspaper bears the greatest responsibility of all as part of the grass roots press it is closest to the people, closest to the truth that only the Freedom to love and serve God can bring. The importance of the Catholic Press is that it exists for YOU!

Your Editor
STEVEN YAROS JR.

On Christian Virtues

Christian virtues are determined by inspiration and example and can be helped or hindered by the atmosphere that is provided.

Charity is the first of these Christian virtues and should be instilled in a climate of love and trust as a gift from God.

Example also is very important, our devotion and attitude to the pursuit of excellence and to Christian standards will be apparent by the type of life we lead and if God is real to us we will bring him into our everyday life.

Inspiration means much and is provided by the record of how others have lived or of something they have accomplished and may well guide and inspire us throughout our life and can truly become a part of us.

So, by word, example, and the charity of God we may well lead a successful and complete life in an atmosphere of love and understanding.

Steven Yaros, Jr.
January 1978

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

In spite of 200 years of many things to be thankful for in this country, the precious gift of life is taken more and more for granted.

Voicing gratitude is out of fashion, kneeling to offer a prayer of thanks is rare and almost unheard of.

We should return the spirit of being thankful to our American way of life and be grateful for our land and for all that God has bestowed on us.

We take all that is given us though it was never really meant for us and we do this without acknowledging that there is a God.

The well-springs of our vitality are not ecnomical they are ethical and spiritual and the lifeblood of man is not wealth and affluence but pursuit of purpose in the heritage of the American Dream of One Nation Under God.

STEVEN YAROS JR.

POPE PAUL VI

1897 - 1978

The Pope of Vatican II is dead. Pope Paul said the Council "made a great effort to reach the whole human family and was a unique moment for both the Church and the world when the past, present and future came together in a special way."

As the most traveled Pope ever, he had a special view of the world and its problems and at this pivotal time in the history of the Catholic Church he helped direct a program of commitment to the values of the past and a creative involvement with the problems and opportunities of the present and continued efforts to foster for humanity a better world that will lead to the Kingdom of God.

Pope Paul said of the Council at its closing in ceremonies in St. Peter's Square:

The past - for here, gathering in this spot, we have the Church of Christ with her tradition, her history, her councils, her doctors, her saints; the present - for we are taking leave of one another to go out toward the world of today with its miseries, its sufferings, its sins but also with its prodigious accomplishments, its values, its virtues, and last the future is here in the urgent appeal of the peoples of the world for more justice, in their conscious or unconscious thirst for a higher life, that precisely what the Church of Christ can and wishes to give them."

Pope Paul summed it up by stating, "the cause of human dignity and of human rights is the cause of Christ."

Vatican II, Freedom And You

The new symbol of Liberty, Justice and Freedom is the risen Christ - His arms raised in triumph over the second Vatican Council which signaled to Catholics that they might have more freedom than they once thought and that religious liberty was a human right.

In the past the church directed us on our journey thru life, now it says you have to decide more for yourself. Vatican II has given Gods people a new challenge to not just exercise their faith in practices but in the depth of their own soul.

The risen Christ (the light of Nations) is not merely symbolized by the Pope and his Bishops and Priest but by the entire people of God, the members of his visiable church.

The modernizing of the rites of Worship is just one of the visible expressions of the new direction of self-determination in a more mature and humanly free church.

In too many societies the state is the only moral power but in America the Church stands beside freedom probably because American Catholics are heirs to this democratic tradition. Freedom is a virtue in both the church and in society and it is the mission of both to serve the purposes of freedom and the causes of liberty under the just mantle of God.

Your Editor
STEVEN YAROS JR.

Catholic Heritage Council

The Holy Name Society of St. Michael's, has voted to support the idea of a Catholic Heritage Council, proposed by your Editor. This council is to be started as a Bicentennial project, but is to be maintained to perpetuate our Parish, Township, County, State, and National Catholic Heritage.

Ideas for two Bronze Plaques, already have been proposed. One to commemorate "Pioneer" Nichols Scherer, the founder of Schererville, and the promoter and benefactor of St. Michael Parish. Nichols Scherer was a man involved in his community. He donated 4½ acres for the church and for the parish cemetery, where he now sleeps in the shadow of the Archangel's Steeple.

As a pioneer of Lake County, he used his many talents and interests to help form this Northwest corner of Indiana.

The other proposed Bronze Plaque is Thomas Jefferson's "Prayer For The Nation," which is as follows:

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our Heritage. We humbly ask you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor, and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable endeavor, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought here out of many nations and tongues.

Endow with "Spirit of Wisdom," those to whom, in your name, we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations on earth. In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail. We ask all of this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Other ideas are to make Genealogy of our Parish Family. Whether this would fill a personal need of tracing a family line or the more general interest of tracing history through individuals—Family blood lines have made up our Parish Family Heritage. As Daniel Webster once said, "Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the World."

Also anyone with old pictures of the past—connected with the history and-or heritage of St. Michael Parish and School, please submit them for possible reprint in our Parish Newspaper. Put your name and address on them and they will be returned to you unharmed.

Help us preserve yesterday and today for tomorrow. History is basically a series of ideas. History is mainly creative thinking. One idea that leads to another, and big ideas that grow from many little ones.

Editorial

Dear Youth of Lake County:

I hear your cry of no where to go and nothing to do and I am writing today to tell you that you are misinformed and your cry is a copout - THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE AND I DARE YOU TO DO IT!

Everywhere I look in our county there is a job waiting to be done - possibly by you!

The opportunities are here - where are you? Opportunities do not come to those who wait - they are won by those who fight! And resources and powers are given to those who use what resources and powers God has given them. USE YOUR TALENT!

The buck is passed back to you - YOU HAVE ONE LIFE - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT? USE YOUR LIFE - DON'T THROW IT AWAY!

Editor of the Mike
Steven Yaros, Jr.

From the editor's desk. . .

THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN THE WORLD

We ought to express our opinions and let those in government know the wishes of the majority.

That's what makes democracy the most important job in the world!

We have power as individuals because we have a vote. But do we use it wisely? Do we vote for a Sheriff of Auditor, or a councilman simply because he is handsome, or likeable or a graduate of Notre Dame or because he may be a good speaker? We should first learn just what he stands for and how his ideals and beliefs will affect our country and our lives.

Votes are vital in the career of anyone running for public office. He pleads for them and makes all kinds of promises for them and when he gets enough of them, he becomes your elected public servant.

Most people who hire servants demand that they do what they were hired to do.

Members of our U.S. and state senates and houses of representatives and our county commissioners, and our township trustee - all are hired servants. Are they doing the kind of job that you want done or that you think needs to be done or are they wondering what you want or do they even care what you want. Elect the type of Public Servant that does care. Elect the type of Public Servant who will believe in democratic government, human rights and Christian ethics. One who will put them into practice. One who will not continue to pollute the main stream of our American way of life with the garbage of sex, money, power and greed!

WHAT MAN'S GREED HAS BROUGHT

We have upset the balance of nature because we have assumed that our country and its resources of air, water and soil were infinite.

But we have found that this is not so - we are choking to death with our heavy air pollution mostly from auto fumes, we are drowning our loved ones in filthy water mostly from industrial waste. And we are polluting our soil with garbage and pesticides. And this pollution is the result of our greed.

The sources of this environmental rape is well known: too many cars, too much industry, and too many people who don't give a damn.

Remember your son will eat the hog that ate the plant that ate the DDT that man's greed has made!

What are we doing to the mains stream of our American way of life? Our ancestors left us a heritage of happy certainty that the earth and its environment were free and clean and unending and would be there for all generations to come.

While we hesitate, God's world deteriorates - to burn garbage is to poison the air, to dump it at sea is to destroy marine life, to bury hot atomic garbage is to pollute underground water - all this goes on and on, except an end is in sight - an end to our environment and our way of life - and in the very end to God's gift of life!

The Apostle of Freedom

This is the story of an extraordinary man, Thomas Jefferson, the Apostle of freedom. His greatness centers around his unique personality and the enternal freshness of his ideas.

As one of the principal builders of our republic, Jefferson held almost every important public office and enriched them with his democratic spirit.

He was a member of Congress, Governor of Virginia, Ambassador to France, Secretary of State, Vice President and twice President of our new country.

As a philosopher and theorist of American democracy Jefferson was the authors of many letters, essays, addresses and statements that formulated his ideas of democratic government and of human freedom.

Jefferson even today is unmatched in the range of his activities, thinking and interests. He was a surveyor, architect, mathematician, paleontologist, farmer, lawyer inventor and philosopher.

He also set up our educational system, he helped design our nations capital, he was instrumental in starting our coinage, he built a university and founded a political party. Jefferson also doubled the size of the United States, and invented machines and things, he even collected scientific materials.

All of us are familiar with these words of Jefferson's from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

And some of us have heard these words of his from the bill for Establishing Religious Freedom: "We the General Assembly of Virginia do enact that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, or shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities."

But few of us have heard these stirring words of Jefferson's from his Summary View of the Rights of British America: that these are our grievances which we have thus laid before his majesty with that freedom of language and sentiment which becomes a free people, claiming their rights as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magistrate. Let those flatter, who fear: it is not an American art. To give praise where it is not due, might be well from the venal, but would ill beseem those who are asserting the rights of human nature. They know, and will therefore say, that kings are the servants, not the proprietors of the people. Open your breast Sire, to liberal and expanded thought. Let not the name of George the third be a blot in the page of history. You are surrounded by British counsellors, but remember that they are parties. You have no ministers for American affairs, because you have none taken from among us, nor amenable to the laws on which they are to give you advice. It behoves you therefore to think and to act for yourself and your people. The great principles of right and wrong are legible to every reader: to pursue them requires not the aid of many counsellors. The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail -- The god who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.

Jefferson was a passionate champion of the rights, freedom, liberty and dignity of man.

His whole life was devoted to the democratic ideal and his words still ring thru time with inspiration: "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

Steven Yaros Jr.

Editorial

Vandalism

The recent act of vandalism at our school may have been small but very expensive, and did cause problems, work and money to repair it - nearly $700.00!

Vandalism is not new at our school, our parish, our town, or our state or country. Way back in 1893 many sacred items were stolen out of our church and burnt in the cemetery and many tombstones vandalized, a very tragic event in our parish history.

The staggering figure of 500 million dollars per year in vandalism is done to our public school system. Are we to stand idle while these buildings that we've worked so hard to build and maintain are destroyed brick by brick?

A youth's rights come after respect and responsibilities. If a youth respects his parents, he will respect the law, and he will respect others' rights and others' property.

If a youth is responsible to himself, he will be self-reliant and contribute to his community, not destroy it.

Our society has depended on the home for moral training, presupposing that each youth comes from a solid home, maintained by parents who care. It's sad to say that this is not always the case.

The heritage of every child should be the birthright into a good religious home where both parents provide discipline out of love.

The heritage of good parents, good teachers, honest public servants and dedicated religious people should be reflected in our youth.

Your Editor
Steve Yaros, Jr.

July 4th Reflection

In Search Of Freedom

Leave us in peace with your misconceptions of democracy for freedom is mans unique ideal and it is a solid and ancient concept but nonetheless it is fragile and ever-threatened.

Liberal ideas are said to have been born under the shield of democracy and shall forever be in search of freedom. But how much freedom should be given to enemies of freedom when there is a temptation to abuse freedom and the great principles of liberty.

No where can justice flourish in the absence of freedom and where it is in good shape it makes no noise, so freedom has little meaning when one lacks the material resources to exercise it nor the moral courage to defend it.

Human rights and basic freedoms should be encouraged and developed by all of man kind but perhaps freedom can never flourish as it is constantly underminded by corruption and pillaged by slavery and poverty.

Freedom is not free enterprise to do what ever one wishes. It demands social order but poverty, ethnic and religious differences breed disorder.

Everywhere traditions of individual freedom depends less on written laws than on the spirit in which they are applied.

Man should have the liberty to search for a decent life, to earn a honest wage and to find freedom and peace of mind in his chosen profession.

To sum it up freedom is not on this century's agenda - everywhere it is illusory and given lip service only. Perhaps freedom can never flourish as it still is in search of itself!

Your Editor
STEVEN YAROS JR.

Tragedy at the Crossroads

A whole town cried and asked why—as this boy died at the Nation's Crossroads—that this senseless killing could take place here in Lake County, in the town of Schererville, along busy 30, to a youth of our Parish, minding his own business, coming home from work is a crime against all of us, our Community, our Parish and our street.

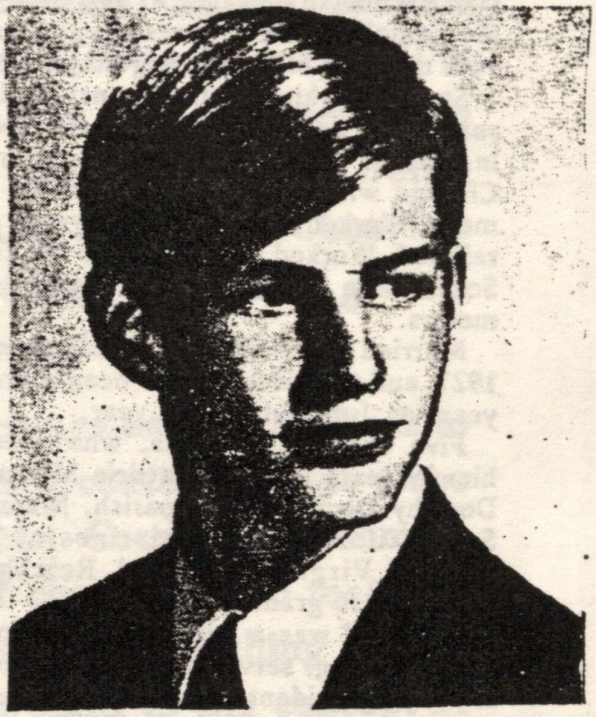
They stabbed him and broke her heart and a whole town cried. Instead of wedding bells in April, a funeral mass in November, and a whole town asked why?

That those who did this deed were free and walking the streets—less than 48 hours later is a crime against all of us, and a whole town asked why?

If there is a lesson to be learned from all of this—that this did happen here and it touched all of us closely, then how many communities, how many parishes and how many streees must be touched daily by a senseless killing.

.Perhaps those who commit these acts and the courts that try them ought to experience what out community, our parish and our street have this week as a whole town cried and said good-bye to this boy who died at the Crossroads of the Nation.

IN MEMORIAM



The Challenge And The Responsibility

Our youths will soon be among those who are entrusted with the responsibility of leadership and of shaping the direction and morale tone and fiber of our country.

It is imperative that the highest possible quality of education be gained in an uninterrupted atmosphere that is conducive to learning.

School administrators must rise to face the issues honestly and then have the courage to firmly implement policies that will not permit or condone any illegitimate interruption of the educational process.

Teachers are leaders who should accept the challenge and responsibility of maintaining order in the classroom.

Unlimited freedom induces students to disrupt and destroy creative learning and the doubtful punishment for such activity encourages its growth and continuation.

There must be a return to a firm, established policy designed to protect the entire student body and not just a vocal minority whose uncontrolled activities may threaten the entire structure of our education.

Just as we call on our schools, teachers and administrators to unite and accept their responsibility of restoring and maintaining order in the classrooms, we too as parents must perform our duty to teach respect and responsibility by word and example before our youths can claim their rights.

Your Editor,
STEVEN YAROS JR.

Clarence Smith - Into Thy Hands O Lord

Clarence Smith was born in Crown Point in 1905 and came to Schererville at the age of four. He attended St. Michael School and served as an altar boy at St. Michaels until after his marriage.

From 1923 to 1925 he attended Electrician's school in Chicago. At age 16 he joined the Catholic Order of Foresters and was a 50 year member at the time of his death.

Started working for the Pennsylvania Railroad at the age of 18 in Hartsdale yards and in 1931 he went to Colehour yards in South Chicago where he worked until his retirement. Worked a total of 38½ years on the railroad. Worked for 3 years for the Town of Schererville reading and repairing water meters.

Married Cecilia Grimmer Schererville in 1927, and they would have been married 50 years on June 1st. of this year.

Five children, Thomas, who preceeded him in death in 1952, Patricia Michael and Dorothy Doctor of this parish, Major John Smith, United States Marines of Woodbridge, Virginia and Cel Reickhoff of Munster. 16 grandchildren.

"Smitty" was a volunteer fireman when he was young, served as a charter member and past-president of the Schererville Lions Club, served on Board of Directors of Schererville Civic Fund, Member of St. Michael Holy Name Society, worked for many years on St. Michael Thanksgiving Clothing Drive. Vice-President of Schererville Centennial Celebration in 1966. Chosen as Lion of the Year in 1974, and Schererville's Distinguished Citizen in 1969. Also reigned as Grand Marshall of Crossroads Parade, 1969.

In the early 1940's he served as Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, in Schererville. Also served as Committeeman, Merit Badge Counselor. Recently made honorary member of Schererville Girl Scouts. Recipient of Scouting's highest honor, The Silver Beaver Award, in 1967.

"Smitty" was a familiar face at the Church Festivals, and every Sunday he could be found in the Church basement helping the men who sorted and counted collection envelopes.

SMITTY

Into thy Hands O Lord do we commit the fighting soul of Clarence P. Smith (better known as Smitty) who passed away February 4, 1977.

Smitty will be missed by this town and this parish as this spunkie little guy was involved in many activities and projects of both. A life time of credits were listed in his obituary yet they took only a minute to read and they will soon be forgotten - only his fighting spirit will be remembered as it was as American as his last name.

At Communion standing next to his coffin with the song of Let there be Peace on Earth ringing through the church ones thoughts ran that Smitty had fought his last great battle in life and had won the lasting Peace of God.

His Funeral Mass ended with the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic sung and it seemed very fitting as every life (as was Smitty's) is full of battles and the spirit that he brought to his battles, his life were truly examples of individual courage and faith in his fellow man.

Pope John Paul 1913 - 1978

POPE JOHN PAUL I IS DEAD - After only 34 days [the shortest pontificate in the last 300 years] as the Catholic Church's 263rd Pope -- Albino Luciani [Pope John Paul I] is dead. Elevated to the rank of Cardinal in 1973, his election to the papacy was a surprise. He was quoted as being encouraged by one of his colleagues in the Sistine Chapel as the vote was taken, who said: "Be strong. If the Lord gives a heavy burden, He also gives the strength to bear it."

His death after such a short reign comes as a great shock to the Christian world. May his successor continue in his steps to promote the true spirit of Vatican Council II, promote ecumenism, continue the revision of church law to maintain each Christian's liberty, to stimulate the teaching of the Gospel to all men, to give greater weight to the concept of shared decision-making, and to work for peace and social progress against hunger and illiteracy as well as for a more just international economic system.

May his soul rest in peace.

A Stop Sign For Johnny

Just after the start of school this year residences at the corner of Joliet and Anna Streets became aware of the dangers involved in our youngsters crossing at this corner going and coming from school. Increased traffic at the intersection created this safety hazzard and concerned residences became involved and contacted St. Mikes School board members who inturn contacted town board members who then got ahold of the police department who confirmed that there was a very real safety hazzard and the street department was contacted and bingo - we had a stop sign for Johnny Catholic all because people like you and me were willing to become involved.

Now we need people like you to become involved once again - We need a stop light for Suzy Central. Anyone who has tried to get out on Route 41 from the Lake Central School parking lot knows the great safety hazzard. Everyone concerned seems to be dragging their feet - I hope it won't take a car load or bus load of kids being creamated by a deadly semi!

From the editor's desk. . .

★★★★ THE CAUSE OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND OF HUMAN RIGHTS ★★★★
IS THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. (POPE PAUL)

As Americans we have lost the habit of asking for and expecting dedication - in fact we look at it as something of an imposition to expect it of our fellow men.

I do not agree with this lack of goals and standards - the qualities of mind and character which people ask for and demand are the qualities they come to honor and respect.

We must ask for a depth of commitment from the individual and the suppression of any spirit of endeavor to develop professional standards, christian ethics and democratic beliefs is the suppression of man's highest human goals and an insult to his basic rights.

★★★★★★★★★★

There are those who say we should be content with the material benefits of life - I cannot accept that premise. A man is poor indeed if he were not able to furnish his mind and his soul with things of spiritual value.

It is important for a man to discover who he is and that he is an individual with a sense of honor and dignity as a person.

A man has to belong to something - he must realize that he is part of mankind.

A man's strength lies in his beliefs in human rights. And if a man holds these rights in esteem, he has nothing to fear, except fear its self.

We must have faith that good men everywhere will seek freedom and that with truth and justice will live in peace with one another.

★★★★★★★★★★

Liberty has its roots in our spiritual nature and it is one of the rights we possess as sons of God.

How free is freedom? How free is any man? Only as free as his neighbors rights permit him to be. The community of man has reached out to where every man is linked up with every other man.

The assumption is that it is a simple choice between right and wrong but when individual freedom and community responsibility cross where do we go and what do we have?

We must believe that the concept of liberty based on our christian roots where liberty loves and serves our community is best.

You cannot find freedom at the expense of conscience. There must be self discipline, moral restraint and religious responsibilities. To act on your rights as though the right had no existence is not liberty - it is tyranny!

Freedom is of the spirit! Only those who follow truth are really free.

★★★★★★★★★★

I would like to be part of arousing men to burst the chains of ignorance and to help them assume the blessings and security of our self-government.

Thru books full of ideals and reason, freedom will be restored and exercised in

them assume the blessings and security of our self-government.

Thru books full of ideals and reason, freedom will be restored and exercised in defending the rights of man. The general spread of truth thru education should not be stopped with school or formal education.

For education is a continuing thing and is much needed in our lives and will help us to keep and maintain a high level of proficiency.

Every free man thru his human behavior must build and maintain values that will add to the dignity and worth of the individual and in the tradition of justice and freedom substain our American way of life.

****

We accuse all those who - commanding or obeying - trample on the rights and dignity of man.

We accuse all those who - commanding or obeying - under maliciously vindictive political power, bury truth and moral conduct to serve their own ends.

We accuse all those who - commanding or obeying - have become co-partners in the shameful acts of injustice and the abandonment of the principles of right and wrong.

We know those whom we accuse. We have seen them in action and have felt their vengence and hatred.

We the accusers undertake to bring an end to this inhumanity on behalf of truth and justice.

We stand for Human Rights, Christian ethics and democratic government.

Will you stand with us?

***** PROCLAMATION *****

We proclaim that man as an intelligent and free person is also a responsible one and has as his objective foundation the right to justice and freedom.

We proclaim that man has the obligation to seek the truth, follow his conscience and to obey its logical conclusion. We further proclaim that the man who so believes and follows the dictates of his own moral code should not be forced or constrained to act against his own good conscience and he should be immune from coercion by his constitutional government.

The issue of justice and freedom arises from time to time in our political and social life and in man's relationship between him and his government. It is an issue of first order for government to protect man's human rights and the basic principles of justice and freedom.

We proclaim that man seeks truth and moral good and that he should proceed in that spirit to do his duty and to proclaim his rights and that he should be free to pursue these goals within the limits set by his constitutional government and that he should also be protected from encroachment of these rights by that same government.

The primary function of government is to acknowledge, protect, vindicate and facilitate the exercise of the rights of man.

The quest for proper values in human society should be the first order of business for government and the human spirit should be free to seek the truth and to find its sense of duty set down and protected by a government free of coercion and anarchy.

A civil society has the obligation to seek virtue as a standard and truth as its goal and should be free to develop the inviolable rights of human mankind within the frame work of constitutional order.

The demands of truth are no more opposed to the demands of justice and freedom than they are to governments obligation to seek and protect those same truths.

We believe in the dignity of the person and that man is endowed by his Maker with reason and free will and that he is bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth and that once it is known, to order his life in accordance with these demands.

We proclaim that government has the duty and the obligation to also seek the truth and to protect these rights for the people it was established to serve and in this proper manner the dignity of the human person will be preserved.

Written in appreciation of the personal sacrifices of Lake County Policemen who have suffered unjustly by fighting for professional standards, Christian ethics and democratic government and human rights.

Steven Yarro Jr.
March-1978

Heritage Profile— Michael Grimmer

Michael Grimmer Sr. came to America from Alsace-Lorraine and made his way to Chicago in 1841 . . . In 1849 he moved to Lake County, Indiana.

His son Michael Grimmer was born in Ross Township on July 18, 1853. The senior Grimmer died when his son was only eight weeks old.

His mother later married John P. Redar of St. John Township and the family moved there and this is where Michael grew into manhood.

Michael Grimmer was an early organist and chair director of St. Michael's Church.

Michael Grimmer came and taught in Schererville in the late 1870's where he also served as organist and choir director in St. Michael's Church.

In August of 1880 he married Helena Neuman of Schererville at St. Michael's Church. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Neuman.

He and his brother Peter F. Redar opened up a general store in Schererville about 1883 which he ran for seventeen years. During this time Michael Grimmer served as Post Master and St. John Township Trustee.

In November of 1896 he was elected Lake County Auditor and sold his general store. In 1900 he was re-elected to a second term. After that he served as a State Representative for two sessions in the State Legislature.

Michael Grimmer died at Crown Point in 1926, and Helena his wife died in 1934 and both are buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Schererville.

Mr. Grimmer was a self-educated, self-made man whose public record and personal life showed him to be most loyal to his duties as a citizen of Lake County.

The Grimmer Middle School in Schererville was named in his honor.

By Steven Yaros Jr.

St. Michael Belongs To You

This is your parish, your roots are here, buried in our church cemetery are your great grandfathers, your aunts and uncles, your sisters and brothers, your sons and daughters. They are the ones that thru blood, sweat and tears built this parish thru moral, physical and financial sacrifice.

It does not belong to your pastor nor the Bishop - the nature of the Church belongs to the entire people of God, whose common convictions carry a natural truth of their own.

The clergy would have peace at any cost, but I say it's to high a price to pay when Justice is slain at the alter of God and Freedom is schackeled as a slave.

Politics is a dirty game whether its played in Church or State and down grades those involved.

Liberty, Justice and Freedom have always been your right as Americans and now the Vatican II Council has given you a more mature and humanly free church by declaring that religious liberty was your human right.

Our parish and Church will become spiritually stronger when they learn to communicate with one another more honestly and practice the trinity of Liberty, Justice and Freedom.

Your editor,
STEVEN YAROS JR.

The Courage To Be An Individual

The best situations for us to live and grow in are those geared to equality: equality of respect; equality of rights. Man cannot attain his real human stature, either by leaning on others or by trying to out do others and gain power over them. There should be a level look of equality and the cordial look of friendliness between human beings.

A premium should be put on mans infinite variety. There should be no stereotyped "yes" men. Men should be united by their very differences and should be encouraged to question fundamental beliefs and in open discussion resolve their doubts.

To me the principle of life is universal and I believe that as individuals we should control our own destinies.

Courage is the art of expressing and living one's beliefs. The fact that man was given the power of choice makes it possible for him to control his own destiny.

When each of us is at peace with the best in one self, when all of us will work for the best of all - then we will have peace! We simply need courage to stand and fight for our beliefs.

This goal is an achievable, practical idea - one that our country and way of life were founded on.

As a student of history I have learned that basic, ethical principals have always been known to mankind; we have only developed and perfected them in our American Democracy.

You don't have to read political science or study constitutional law to understand democracy or to realize that when individuality is suppressed, society suffers, when originality is thwarted, progress is halted.

From the point of view of a dictator who can rule only as long as individual thoughts and ideas and conduct are suppressed, these are dangerous thoughts to be lurking in the mind of man.

Man can and should be kind and just to his fellow man; man can and should strive for constant spiritual and social inprovement.

Cruelty, injustice and intolerance are social crimes that should be punished as severly as physical ones. There is no limit to what men in society can achieve. But the good, just and happy life cannot be achieved in any society where power, political or economic, is monopolized in the hands of a single person or single group. Only in a democratic society, even if it is imperfect, can human beings make a successful effort to attain happiness and peace.

The Advent of Christmas

The basic tenet of our Christian faith is that at Christmas time God stepped into history as the Christ Child Jesus and set the historic time and place of Nazareth as the birth of our Savior.

We must historically go back to His time. to understand the miracle of His birth. We must understand His own time to focus in on our time and place in history. Then we will understand the importance of this divine drama and appreciate this nativity scene.

To understand the historical and political context of the birth of Christ is to understand this event and realize how it influenced human history for all eternity.

Bound up in Christmas time is the hope and expectation of our promised Messiah and the spiritual freedom that is the destiny of God's chosen people!

Your Editor,
Steven Yaros, Jr.

THE MIKE

EDITORAL

The Stranger - Dad!

The other day I read an article on Conservation by William Hilts entitled "The Stranger - Dad!"

The article ask the searching question: "How much contact does the average child between the ages of two and twelve have with his father?"

A national survey showed a shocking 12½ minutes a day, most often at dinner!

Compare this 12½ minutes a day with Dad, with the time the average child of that age spends watching TV and its easy to see why he can regard Dad as practically a stranger.

Real Communications with the father often is completely lacking, and this is no good!

It is those formative years that a child should be learning from his father, and the father by advice, should be guiding him in the way of life.

The editorial, originally taken from the Times-Journal of New Jersey concluded, "He certainly can't do much of that in 12½ minutes a day!

Thoughts all of us Fathers should ponder!

Walking to Solitude

One of lifes great pleasures is Walking to Solitude along our towns busy main street or along a nice quiet path in one of our Country Parks like Lemon Lake.

A walk with happy feet can help make your heart and problems a little lighter. Walking to Solitude-Listening to God and enjoying His marvelous world.

Congratulations

To our Eighth Grade graduates, to our high school grads, and to all those receiving diplomas from college and universities - Congratulations!

A Catholic School has the unique goal of helping one understand Christ and His Gosepl, of unraveling the marvels of life. The search for life's meaning goes on - you never graduate from needing Gods help and Love nor the Gospel of Christ and the Christian values you have learned. May God be with you on your Journey thru life!

April Easter Thoughts

You read in the paper of the nuclear melt down at the atomic power plant on the three mile island in Pennsylvania and of NIPSCO's assurance that it can't happen here at the Chesterton Bailly nuclear power plant in Northwest Indiana.

Yet we live in a no man's land, this small German Catholic island in time and space, overshadowed by greed and power, of money and sin - we live in an island of hell, caught between this dunes nuclear reactor and mountains of nuclear waste materials buried in Morris, Illinois.

The Soviet Union has had three such major nuclear accidents that killed hundreds of people when buried atomic wastes exploded and spread radioactive material over thousands of miles.

What happens to all of the life - that man's greed has destroyed? - The time is clearly at hand to stand and face this great responsibility to preserve human ecology. We must be sensitive to and have respect for human ecology. We must be sensitive to and have respect for human life or we will have it no more!

The American myth that technology, wonder drugs and the power of money can buy anything, has blinded the American people to the fact that this same technology, drugs and money have polluted man's environment both internally and externally.

Human ecology is much more important to man's continuation then industrial technology -- we are living in an era where concern for our natural resources must measure up to the quality and respect for human life that we are in search of.

We must, of course, preserve our forests, our soil and our water ways, but we must be as concerned with the pollution of our blood streams as we are with that of our rivers, lakes and streams.

When Christ chased the money changers away from the House of God, He was acting out a message, that he didn't want His House polluted by the power, wealth and greed of money as we have let our present day world become.

And when God commanded Saint Frances to rebuild His Church - I believe he meant Francis to rebuild it with a new order founded on poverty - away from the wealthy, powerful corrupt Church of the past.

So go forth as Christ and as Saint Francis and cast out the pollution of this modern day world and reclaim and rebuild your farm lands, your school yards and your waterways.

Reclaim your birthright - your heritage, your land and your life. Take it back from the power hungry money changers who are destroying life as we have known it!

For by His Cross He has bought your freedom - your chains of bondage to this world are no more. The Kingdom of God is at hand!

Your Editor,
Steven Yaros, Jr.

To The Graduates

On an occasion like your graduation I would like to offer to you some solemn contemplation and reflection on your past and on your future.

The name of Catholic Young Adult, which belongs to you in your present capacity, you will carry with you thru the next 10 to 15 years and as such you must always exalt pride of patriotism and Catholicism.

For you have been brought up and educated in the principles of our great country and beloved Church -- these principles are formed especially for you to help guide you through this most important period in your life.

We all have the same common goal in life; to know God, to love God and to serve Him and in so doing to find a fuller, richer life, centered on love of our fellow man and resting on the pillars of civil and human rights.

As graduates of St. Michaels you have in common cause studied and worked, played, fought and triumphed together and worshiped together. The knowledge and experience you now possess is the joint effort of many interested parties; your parents, your teachers and your Church. All working together to build in you respect and responsibility so you may claim your rights as citizens of a democracy and sons and daughters of the one true faith.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to your character, religion and morality are indispensable supports. Human happiness and world peace are firm goals that become duties to the Catholic Young Adult. Be Catholic in your everyday life -- love God, then do what you must!

As a Catholic Young Adult be considerate of human rights and have justice toward everyone. Cultivate peace and harmony within your circle of family and friends and you will find peace and harmony with in all. Religion and morality will enjoin this conduct.

It will be worthy of your title as Catholic Young Adults to set the example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence in their chosen faith.

Yours in Christ,
MIKE Editor
STEVEN YAROS JR.

Americanism In Our Schools

"Reds produce Communists, our schools seldom Americans. We had better begin again educating our children in Americanism. One does not inherit patriotism. It must be taught and aroused." This starling quote is by Msgr. T. James McNamara.

Our children are not really Americans until they learn to love our country and accept the principles and the way of life for which it stands. The religious training of our children begins at the pre-school level and it is continually broadened throughout their lives. So also if our children are to become worthy citizens they need to be taught about their American heritage.

Instead of teaching American History in school these days our youth are given a course in social studies.

Our American History is not merely a classroom subject - our past is part of our living present. It is the streets we live on, the monuments we pass and the bridges we cross, the people we salute.

The stories behind these historic reminders of our common heritage should be passed on from father to son, from teacher to student and should be learned local, county, state and national in that order.

Every school in the Nation should take action to return American History to it's curriculum as it becomes the medium through which our citizen youth are taught their Americanism.

This country was built by men who relied on themselves, those who dared to blaze new trails and to follow and try new ideals. These men along with founding a new nation also formed our national character - that of taking care of themselves. This individual initiative of self-reliance has become our American legacy if we will only pass it along to our sons and daughters.

If the young people of today take a glance back in history they will realize that they have a future to mold and that they need to be self starters and they need to be self-reliant. They must have a willingness to work for their happiness and reject the prevalent theory today that somebody else owes them a living.

The American miracle was expressed by Alexis de Tacqueville when he said: "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in fertile fields and boundless forests; it was not there. I sought for it in her free schools and her institutions of learning; it was not there. I sought for it in her matchless Constitution and democratic congress; it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and found them aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Your Editor:
STEVEN YAROS JR.

A Unique Spirit

HAPPY THE MAN WHO IS

Happy the man who is:
Able to function with his head in the clouds and his feet on the ground - For he is a dreamer!

Happy the man who is:
Mindful of the fact that true happiness comes only to those who's purpose in life is to do the will of God - For he is a Christian.

Happy the man who is:
Capable of standing up to be counted as a Christ bearer - For he is a minority!

Happy the man who is:
Careful to maintain friends along lifes way - For he is a Peacemaker.

Happy the man who is:
Full of life - For he is a doer, using his talent for God!

Happy the man who is:
Described above for he is Father Dudash - If God be for him, who dares be against him.

THE MIKE

Easter Reflections **********

For most of us Easter is just another festival - we think of new clothes, spring flowers and the Easter Parade and the meaning of the Resurrection is lost in the commercial trappings of this modern life.

But let you and me forget about the Easter Parade, let us think for a few minutes about that First Easter when they left Him for dead. They had seen the great stone rolled against the mouth of the tomb and had gone away to mourn.

But early Sunday morning Mary Magdalene went to the sepulcher to find that the great stone was rolled away and that Christ had risen.

And so today let us believe still that the stone of doubt will be rolled from our hearts, let us rejoice in the true meaning of Easter.

Somehow it seems that in His plan - that each of us shall find his Easter, through hours of trial and selfdenial and come at last to see the great stone of doubt rolled away and find the purpose of all suffering. Only by faith can men grow strong to withstand this modern world; only by faith can men reach Easter and its victories.

By Steven Yaros Jr.

The Respect for Life

Christ has taught respect for life and this has always been a fundamental Christian belief.

As a Catholic you have as much a right as anybody else to speak up on any question that involves human rights and human life.

Infact a Catholic is commanded by God not to kill nor to condone it.

Speaking of rights as an unborn child has rights also - the right to be born! It becomes a matter of Christian morality to protect this right to life. No one has unqualified rights when they may interfere with the rights of others - especially the rights of the unborn. How can anyone weigh this against the most basic right of all - the right to life itself!

Abortion stands out as a deadly contradiction of our religious, moral, legal and historical tradition and is an insult to the life and world that God created.

Catholic Education -

The kinds of talent that prevail in any society are the kinds that are valued in that society. And whether or not our young people are eager to learn depends very much on the kind of christian environment we provide for them. In life when much is expected much is given.

In education we can not scorn the life of the mind and expect our young people to honor it. Our children will respect learning if their elders respect learning. They will value the things of the mind and the spirit if we value them.

Christian Goals

A childs growth depends on the environment of it's own community - his home, his street, his church, his school and his town.

Thus in our community a child might be inspired to a lifetime of Christian living and learning by parents, teachers and other religious leaders who cared about his education.

Our chldrens Catholic education must motivate them to pursue Christian goals.

YOUR EDITOR
STEVEN YAROS JR.

Heritage Trail

NICHOLS SCHERER

The founder and promoter of Schererville —NICHOLS SCHERER — was born on June 29, 1830 in the Saar Valley of Germany and came to America with his parents, John and Mary Scherer in 1846. The family located in St. John and later they moved to Dyer where John Scherer, the father died at the advanced age of 103 in the year 1865. In that same year Nichols located in what is now Schererville while he was working for the Great Eastern Railroad. In 1870 at the age of 99 years his mother, Mary passed away in Schererville.

Nichols Scherer married Frances Uhlenbrock in 1862 when he lived in St. John. They were the parents of seven children; Anna, who became Mrs. Nicholas Schafer; Margaret, who married Adam Gerlach; Nichols Jr., killed by lightning in 1893; Theresa, who became Mrs. Jacob Austgen; John G. who died in 1892; Joseph who died in 1891; Mary who died in her teens.

In 1873, the residents of Schererville presented to the Bishop of Fort Wayne a petition written by Frances Scherer asking to establish a Catholic parish. Nichols Scherer donated 4½ acres for the church and parish cemetery.

Soon a white frame church, dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel stood at the site. The Bishop blessed Saint Michael's on September 29, 1874.

Nichols Scherer was a man involved in his community. As a pioneer of Lake County he used his many talents and interest to help and form this Northwest corner of Indiana.

And after a very active, useful life he retired in 1895 and in 1907, at the age of 74 he passed away at his home at 33 Wilhelm Street, Schererville. Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Church and he was laid to rest in the shadow of the Archangel's steeple!

by Steven Yaros Jr.

THE MIKE

Editorial

Our Catholic Heritage

Our Catholic heritage goes way back to the time that Father Marquette passed thru this area in his birch-bark canoe and preached to the Indians.

And from the time that the first Catholic family was raised in the Calumet Region by Joseph Bailly.

Our Catholic heritage stems from the time that John Hack built the first Catholic log chapel on his farm in St. John.

And from when Nichols Scherer helped establish a Catholic church on the hill in Schererville dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel.

So whether it was 1670s or 1820s or 1840s or the 1870s our Catholic heritage spans some 300 years in this northwest corner called Indiana's last frontier.

These and scores of others since them have built our Catholic heritage upon faith, strength and imagination and have molded it into the Diocese of Gary.

We should always be aware of the heritage that these men and women, our pioneers have left for us, the heritage of good parents, good teachers, honest public servants and dedicated religious people.

So as we look forward to our nation's bicentennial celebration we must look backward with an historical perspective to try to recapture some of our Early American spirit, our heritage of hard work, of respect, of honesty and of faith in our Catholic way of life.

STEVEN YAROS JR.

Accountability

Evidence lies all about us--that those who exert substantial power over us in most all public and private sectors of our life are Unaccountable to anyone for their actions or inactions.

What is accountability? If it means anything it must mean that those who wield power over us have to answer to someone in another place and give reasons for decisions made or not made!

Basic guidelines have built accountability into our government such as power must not be allowed to concentrate neither in individuals nor in institutions and that the ultimate power must belong to the people.

James Madison once said that. "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

In most sectors of American life there are major abuses of power--abuses that violate our fundamental rights as citizens and as sons of God.

John Adams stated that "power always thinks it has great soul and vast views beyond the comprehension of the weak and that it is doing God's service when it is violating all His laws."

Those in power must be made accountable to the people where the true power lies and to restore to those same people the true sovereignty that has been lost in the polling place.

The failure of our country to achieve the peoples safety and protect their rights lies mainly in the fact that those in power think that they are not accountable to anyone for their actions or inactions.

They seem to forget that they are held accountable by God and His laws to protect human rights, Christian ethics, professional standards and democratic principles.

For after all as Pope Paul said. "The Cause of Human Dignity and of Human Rights is the Cause of Christ."

Your Editor,
Steven Yaros, Jr.

Thank God For Americanism

As an American Catholic I personally feel an obligation to make a special statement in this our Bicentennial year of National celebration. My motivation stems from my own special love for our country.

This love comes from the knowledge that I, like all Americans have had the Liberty, Freedom and opportunity to choose, to fail and to succeed as an individual.

We were born each with the inalienable right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness - but so were millions now enslaved by Communism and dictatorships.

If I were a Catholic in one of these enslaved states I could not practice my precious Faith, at least not openly.

The true seeds of American independence were planted on this soil by the first English settlers; especially the Pilgrims, who came to the New World in search of religious liberty. The search for liberty-religious, civil, or personal-brought thousands of our early settlers to these shores. From that day to this, our country has clung to the ideal of liberty planted by her founders.

The American revolution was not only fought on bloody battle fields such as Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill but more significantly the American Revolution was a revolution of ideas, fought in the battlefields of men's minds.

One of the main revolutionary idea's was this-that each person is a sovereign individual, with certain inalienable, God-given rights, and that the purpose of government is not ot dispense rights, but to protect them. Government would be the servant, not themaster of the people.

Freedom of religion and conscience was one of the major reasons for settling of our country, and by the time of the Declaration of Independence it was fairly well established.

Catholics in our new nation numbered at most 30,000 and they were ministered to by only 24 Priests.

But these 30,000 Catholics, like most of our early settlers were deeply religious men, in a country and state where they could now express their love and faith for God in their everyday lives of talk and debate and in their writings.

It is a natural for their references to be of the Bible and of God.

Only todays modern times and thoughts make a mockery of religion and turn love of country into a civil religion.

Thank God that I'm an American who is free to practice my Catholic Faith. Thank God I'm a Catholic who has faith in America and it's Heritage!

I see no conflict in being Ameircan and Catholic - I'm proud of it. THANK GOD FOR AMERICANISM!

(Next month: AMERICANISM IN OUR SCHOOLS)

STEVEN YAROS JR
YOUR EDITOR

The Challenge of Life

Too many people have neither the will nor the courage to take up the challenge of life. They seek a life of security and repose and submit to a controlled destiny.

There are fortunately others who bravely undertake the challenge of life daily with heroic courage and endurance.

Thanks to such people we need not despair about our future.

If through fear of danger we refuse to move on into the unknown we shall never become a man of action.

Every activity requires courage and the joy of accepting the challenge of life is to accept the challenge of God to use our talent to serve Him. Steven Yaros Jr., Editor

The Renewal of Society

If we hope to achieve renewal we will have to have an environment that will produce creative men and women.

Renewal depends on motivation, commitment, conviction, values and other things that give meaning to a persons life.

The renewal of our society can go forward only if someone cares. Apathy and apathetic men accomplish nothing! Men who believe in nothing change nothing for the better.

Unless we cope with the ways modern society oppresses the individual, we shall lose the creative spark that helps men renew themselves.

In order to renew our society we must all share a vision of something worth renewing. We must set conditions under which we are to renew ourselves.

High standards and the pursuit of excellence are worth while goals in our quest for renewal and must become engraved in our mind, heart and soul.

Your Editor,
Steven Yaros, Jr.

THE MIKE

Editorial

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

The month of February is observed as Catholic Press Month and we of the MIKE staff wish to salute all Catholic Publications that do such a swell job year in and year out of informing and guiding Catholics everywhere.

The MIKE is proud to be a small part of the Catholic Press, but we feel an important part of keeping St. Michaels members posted on parish activities and helping guide them spiritually.

We at the MIKE realize that we also have the triple trust of responsibility, honesty, and truth to Catholics everywhere—especially here at St. Michaels.

THE SPIRIT OF LENT

Search your hearts and ask yourself not what you are giving up, but rather what you are giving. For the Spirit of Lent is giving—giving of ourselves to HIM.

By serious meditation, by daily Mass, by frequent Prayer and Communion, by Religious reading and daily visits to Church we can get into the Spirit of Lent, that of giving ourselves to HIM.

Let us make this season of Lent one in which we cheerfully give of ourselves by doing penance and offering up sacrifices to the Crucified Christ.

The season of Lent is made only for the Beautiful Feast of the Resurrection by giving ourselves to the one who gave HIS all for us. Your Editor, Steven Yaros Jr.

Editorial

THE MARK OF THE CHRISTIAN

As Christians we must learn the value of man, because in today's sick culture man more often then not is treated as inhuman. Modern man has no clue who he really is and therefore can find no value in himself and his fellow man. All men bear the image of God and they have value because they were created in HIS image. Jesus has commanded that we love all men as our neighbors, then surely we must love our fellow Christians as ourselves - this is the mark of a Christian.

THE SIGN OF MAN

Dirty air and water pass easily from county to county and state to state and downwind and upstream - Pollution - the sign of man is everywhere. The tracks of human waste litter this planet - man's pollution of himself and his environment, man's greed, man's inhumanity to man is everywhere but it is not the will of God.

THE WILL OF GOD

To know God and to love and serve Him - that is the will of God - not the self-seeking, self-serving sick humans that today's society is creating - selfishly using and destroying all that God has created out of His love and in His wisdom.

All men bear the image of God - the sign of man is not the mark of a Christian nor the will of God.

Steven Yaros Jr.

A Policeman's Prayer

Almight God, we seek professiona standards, christians ethics and Democrati government.

In keeping with our nations heritage hel us always to seek the truth and protect th rights of human dignity under the mantle c justice and freedom.

Endow us always with the courage t apply a moral code of christian concern f justice and fair play.

Help us to defend the liberties of c united people who have fled here from ma nations seeking these rights.

In your name we entrust to ou government the responsibility to acknowl edge, protect, vindicate and facilitate man exercise of his rights.

We also ask your help to keep it free o coercion and anarchy so that it might be model of Democracy.

We ask all of this in your name-Amen.

Steven Yaros Jr

Editorial

Peace and Brotherhood

At this Christmas time as our thoughts turn to Peace and Brotherhood of Mankind the Mike staff would like to bring to your attention the custom of our Church—that of turning to the person next to you during Mass and extending your hand and saying PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Wouldn't it be great if everyone in the whole world would greet each other with this same, firm, warm hand shake of Brotherhood and love and say PEACE BE WITH YOU.

So let us leave this message of Peace on Earth and the Brotherhood of mankind to all of you at this Christmas time and extend our hand—SHALOM.

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 3113 02805 0047

IND 070.482 YARO
Yaros, Steven J.
For God, country and man
CN

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
INDIANA

AD
AV
BO
CL
DY
FF
GR
HI
HO
LS
MU
NC
SC
SJ
CN L

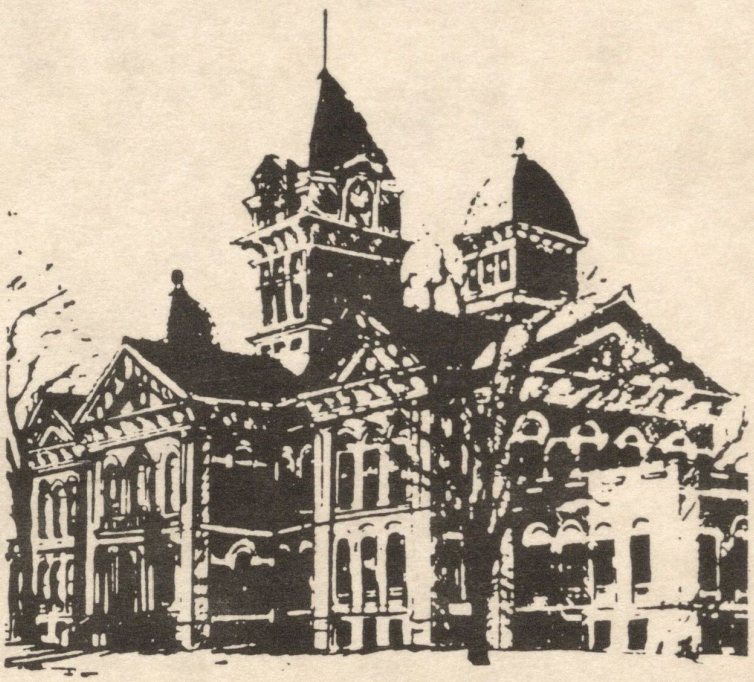
JAN 31 '89

THIS BOOK IS RENEWABLE BY PHONE OR IN PERSON IF THERE IS NO RESERVE WAITING OR FINE DUE.

LCP #0390

EMINENTLY WORTHY
OF PRESERVATION

An Open Letter



Dear Mothers and Fathers, Sons and Daughters of Lake County:

On the square in Crown Point stands the foundation of our Lake County's Heritage - the old Court House.

If there is one place where a person can stand in Lake County today and say "Here is where it all began" this small square is it!

This physical evidence of Our Heritage is a symbol of the strength, faith and endurance of the men and women who conceived and founded this county back in 1837. This building of faith gives us an invaluable historical perspective of the imagination and genius of our founders, builders and pioneers. And it should be used to protect, promote and preserve our Lake County History and Heritage.

Spread across this county are sites that shaped and molded a loosely knit community into a county - Lake County! Visiting these historic sites can be a satisfying experience, but what you see depends a great deal on what you take with you. You are taking an excursion into the past and the true understanding of life a century ago will not exist until you are ready to see it. You must be drawn into the magic spell of another time.

Historic buildings and/or sites must be protected and preserved today if they are to be there tomorrow for our children and our childrens children.

We must note the milestones of yesterday and today so they will be there tomorrow.

Visiting our past helps to heighten our awareness of our Heritage and helps us to step back in history into the presence of the past. These are the places where men and women - Our Pioneers - dreamed of a new world, and where they lived and died to make what we have today a reality.

Many of these places are still there to see, to touch, to stand in and to think and perhaps to dream of people and events that influence us so much yet today.

History is essentially a series of ideas. History demonstrates how, as in all creative thinking, one idea leads to another - and how big ideas form many little ideas.

Don't let anyone destroy your ideas, don't let anyone destroy your Heritage - especially it's symbolic foundation - the old Court House!

Our ideas and Heritage must be preserved for our Freedom! Aren't these worth fighting for?!

Historical Association of Lake County
President
Steven Yaros, Jr.